

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's formal grounds of objection to the terminology in the claims, and appropriate amendatory action has been taken to correct the terminology in particular Claims 25 and 27, the latter of which, with the exception of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are considered to be allowable.

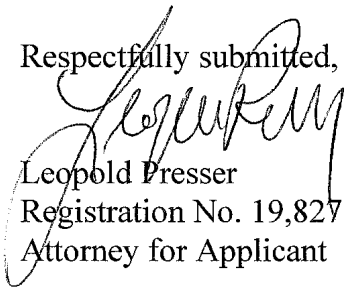
With respect to the Examiner's objection to Claim 11, applicant notes that this claim inadvertently includes language indicating the "formed-in" portion, which in actuality should be a radially protruding thickened wall portion, as illustrated for the semi-finished nature thereof as the structure that is described and illustrated in Figure 7 of the drawings. In this instance, the structure includes the peripherally protruding wall portion in the peripheral wall thereof, rather than being formed-in. Accordingly, the terminology of Claim 11 has been corrected to provide the foregoing aspects, and is deemed to be clearly patentable over the art. In this connection, inasmuch as Claim 11 has been amended to represent the foregoing aspect in a more precise form, Claim 13, which is dependent therefrom, is also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, with regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Firth, et al., applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate allowable Claim 2; and also presented new independent Claim 28, which includes the subject matter of Claim 1 incorporating Claims 3 and 4, as indicated to be allowable in the Office Action.

The dependencies of the various claims have also been revised to take cognizance of the foregoing amendments to Claim 1 and the presenting of Claim 28, thereby rendering all of the claims in the application into condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, which are deemed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and in compliance with the Examiner's conditions for rendering the application into order for allowance, the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that any further amendments are required to clarify the foregoing, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss the Amendment and any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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